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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank David Roemer for the photograph of the adult light morph Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsonii*) observed over the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County, 8 April 2006 (see p.67). Financial support for color cover provided by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.



Nesting Bald Eagles in Kentucky — Two Decades of Recovery

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Shawchyi Vorisek, and Adam Smith

Kentucky's population of Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) occurs in highest numbers during the winter months when birds from the northern United States and Canada migrate south in search of open bodies of water on which to hunt (Burford 2001). Most of the historic records (pre-1950s) were from extreme western Kentucky, although observations farther east, especially along the Ohio River floodplain, occurred fairly regularly (Mengel 1965). In more recent years, numbers of non-breeding eagles have increased across central and eastern Kentucky, likely the result of a combination of the availability of habitat on reservoirs and the overall increase in the continental population. Depending largely upon the severity of the weather, approximately 150 to 300 Bald Eagles have been detected during mid-winter surveys in the state in recent years (Burford and Vorisek 2005).

In contrast, historically Kentucky's nesting eagle population appears to have been relatively small and presumably non-migratory, occurring primarily in association with the larger rivers and associated floodplains. Very little information exists on the breeding status of the species in the state prior to the 20th Century. However, the presence of "about 6 pairs" that nested regularly in the vicinity of Island No. 8 on the Mississippi River in western Fulton County in the 1890s (Pindar 1925) is suggestive of a relatively healthy population in the far western portion. Moreover, accounts by Audubon from the early 1800s in the vicinity of Henderson (Audubon 1831, cited in Mengel 1965) indicate that the species probably nested at least occasionally farther east. In more recent times, Mengel (1965) believed it "unlikely that more than 5 or 10 pairs nested in the state as of the 1950's."

During the 1960s, the effects of the accumulation of residues from organochloride pesticides like DDT in the ecosystem were detrimental to large raptors like Bald Eagles. Like the numbers of many other birds feeding primarily on fish, eagle numbers crashed due to poor nesting productivity associated with eggshell thinning that resulted in broken eggs. The last active eagle nest reported from Kentucky actually occurred in Ballard County in the late 1940s (Mengel 1965) although it seems reasonable to assume that a few later nests went unreported. In sub-sequent years the species apparently disappeared entirely as a breeding bird, and no nesting attempts were reported through the mid-1980s.

With the banning of DDT in the early 1970s and the listing of the species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act in 1978, the number of Bald Eagles began to increase. Additionally, in 1980 the Tennessee Valley Authority, in cooperation with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Tennessee Conservation League, and the USFWS, initiated a restoration effort in the western Kentucky/Tennessee area by releasing captive-bred and wild-captured young. These eaglets were brought to Land Between the Lakes (LBL) and reared to fledging age in a hacking tower on the Tennessee side. This effort was undertaken through 1988 and resulted in the successful release of 44 birds (S. Bloemer, pers. comm.).

During the winter of 1985-1986, a pair of Bald Eagles constructed a nest on Mud Slough at Ballard Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Ballard County (Andrews 1987). Although the nest was not active the first year, this pair hatched two eggs the following year. Unfortunately, these two eaglets died of unknown causes, and the pair continued to have nesting problems nesting for several years. However, this initial effort was a prelude to additional attempts, and during the late 1980s active nests were discovered elsewhere in Ballard County at Swan Lake WMA and in LBL. In 1989, a pair of eagles at LBL became the first known to raise young successfully in Kentucky in forty years. One of the members of this pair was banded, strongly suggesting it originated from the TVA-led restoration project. In fact, during the mid- to late 1980s, several of the birds initially nesting in the LBL area were known or presumed, due to the presence of bands, to have originated from the local restoration effort. In 1991, an LBL-released bird was one of a pair of Bald Eagles

that became the first to nest successfully in Indiana in nearly a century (S. Bloemer, pers. comm.).

By 1990, at least five pairs of eagles had established nesting territories in western Kentucky, and the nesting population continued to expand through the mid-1990s, primarily in LBL and along the lower Ohio and Mississippi river floodplains. A notable exception involved a pair that built a nest at Laurel River Lake, Laurel County, in 1991. This pair, like many other eagle pairs engaged in their first nesting efforts, experienced difficulty in raising young; in fact, it was not until 2002 that young fledged successfully on the lake. During this same period, one of 73 birds hacked by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources at Lake Monroe during 1985-1989 became one of the first to nest in Henderson County in 1991 (J. Castrale, pers. comm.). In 1995, in response to a widespread and remarkable increase in numbers across the lower 48 states, the Bald Eagle was down-listed from Endangered to Threatened by the USFWS (USFWS 1995).

During the late 1990s, Kentucky's nesting eagle population increased dramatically. Most of the expansion occurred at LBL and along the Mississippi River, but a few pairs were also discovered across the Shawnee Hills (Western Coalfield) region. In 2000 the state's nesting eagle population reached the 30-pair plateau. The early 2000s have marked the appearance of nesting eagles at several additional sites across central Kentucky as well as the establishment of nesting territories at two new sites in the eastern part of the state, where suitable habitat was absent historically but is present today in the form of flood control/recreational reservoirs. Gradual expansion also has continued in western Kentucky. Most nests continue to be established in close proximity to the larger reservoirs and rivers, but several are now known far from large bodies of water.

As the 2006 nesting season commenced, Kentucky was hosting nearly 50 pairs of Bald Eagles with established nesting territories (Table 1; Figure 1). Of the total, not every pair has been successful in the past few years, but in 2005 at least 42 pairs were known or thought to have been successful, with a similar 40+ successful pairs documented in 2006. The locations in Table 1 and Figure 1 represent areas where a pair of birds has been documented to be actively engaged in nesting. Some pairs likely no longer consist of the original birds, and often more than one nest has been involved as nests are destroyed by storms or simply rebuilt in nearby locations. For example, at least four nests have been built by the pair of eagles at Laurel River Lake since 1991.

In addition to the pairs listed in Table 1, there are also more than a dozen pairs holding active territories immediately adjacent to the state, mostly along the banks of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers (e.g., Brown and Scioto counties, Ohio; Crawford, Harrison, Perry, and Posey counties, Indiana; Massac and Pope counties, Illinois; New Madrid County, Missouri; and Pickett and Stewart counties, Tennessee). Several additional pairs have built nests but have not attempted to nest, and a few others have been reported but not yet confirmed.

Kentucky's nesting Bald Eagle population continues to be monitored annually by the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) in cooperation with other state and federal agencies and local volunteers. In March of each year, all known nesting territories are surveyed by helicopter to search for incubating birds. Although budgetary constraints have limited later-season surveys, nesting success has been determined to the extent possible using follow-up nest observations from a variety of agency personnel and volunteers. In most years, this methodology has allowed for the compilation of productivity information for a majority of the nests.

The Bald Eagle currently remains listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In 1999, the USFWS proposed to remove the species entirely from listing, but due to various objections delisting was postponed to allow for the gathering of additional information to support the action. In February 2006 the USFWS reopened the public comment period for the proposal to delist the Bald Eagle in the lower 48 States and provided addi-

Table 1. Bald Eagle Nesting Pairs in Kentucky, 1986-2006

County	Location	Yr. first active	Comments including most recent activity
Mississippi River and associated tributaries			
Ballard	Ballard WMA #1	1986	Successful in 2006.
" "	Ballard WMA #2	1989	Successful in 2006.
" "	Swan Lake WMA	1989	Not successful until 1995. Successful in 2006.
" "	Honey Slough	1994	Successful in 2006.
" "	Mayfield Creek	2000	Still active in 2006.
Carlisle	Back Slough	1995	Last activity noted in 1997.
" "	Wilson Creek	2004	Still active in 2006.
Fulton	Bayou de Chien/Little Mud Creek/Obion WMA	1987	Not successful until 1994. Last confirmed successful in 2002. Still active in 2006.
" "	Lake No. 9	1993	Successful in 2006.
" "	Long Point Unit, Reelfoot NWR	1999	Active only in 1999.
" "	Kentucky Bend NE	2000	Last confirmed successful in 2004. Active in 2006.
" "	Kentucky Bend W	2003	Last confirmed successful in 2004. Active in 2006.
" "	Island No. 8	2003	Active in 2006.
Hickman	Wolf Island	1991	Last confirmed successful in 2001. Active in 2006.
" "	Westvaco WMA	2001	Successful in 2006.
Land Between the Lakes area			
Calloway	Bailey Hollow	2005	Successful in 2005. Inactive in 2006.
Lyon	LBL – Fulton Bay	1987	Last confirmed successful in 1996. Likely successful in 2000. Last known active in 2001.
" "	LBL – Mammoth Furnace Bay	1990	Last confirmed successful in 2003. Likely successful in 2006.
" "	LBL – Smith Bay	1995	Successful in 2006.
" "	LBL – Demumbers Bay	1997	Last successful in 2003. Last active in 2005.
" "	LBL – Duncan Bay	1998	Last successful in 2003. Pair present but nesting not attempted in 2006.
" "	LBL – Eddyville Ferry	1998	Successful in 2006.
" "	LBL – Cravens Bay	2000	Successful in 2005. Likely successful in 2006.
Marshall	Ky Dam Village State Resort Pk.	2002	Successful in 2006
" "	Olive Branch/Jonathan Creek Bay	2004	Successful in 2006.
Trigg	LBL – Pryor Bay	1990	Apparently never successful. Last active in 1998 when nest location was in Tennessee.
" "	LBL – Rhodes Bay/Higgins Bay	1991	Successful in 2006.
" "	LBL – Sugar Bay	1992	Last successful in 1995. Last active in 1997.
" "	LBL – Devil's Elbow	1993	Last confirmed successful in 2004. Likely successful in 2006.
" "	LBL – Shaw Branch	1996	Successful in 2005. Pair present but nesting not attempted in 2006.
" "	LBL – Blockhouse Bay	1997	Successful in 2006.
" "	LBL – Turkey Bay	1999	Still active and likely successful in 2006.
" "	LBL – Terrapin Bay	1999	Still active and successful in 2006.
" "	LBL – Empire Farm	2002	Last successful in 2005. Pair present but nesting not attempted in 2006.
" "	Twin Trees subdivision/Little River Bay	2004	Last successful in 2005. Inactive in 2006.
" "	LBL – Savells Bay	2005	Likely successful in 2006.
Lower Ohio River			
Henderson	Sloughs WMA, Anderson Pond #1	1991	Successful in 2005. A pair was present but nesting apparently was not attempted in 2006.
" "	Audubon Swamp	2003	Successful in 2006.
" "	Sloughs WMA, Jenny Hole Unit	2003	Successful in 2006.

Table 1 continued.

Henderson	Sloughs WMA, Anderson Pond #2	2006	A second nest was built in close proximity to #1 pair's former nest and was successful in 2006.
Livingston	Ohio River floodplain below Smithland	2001	Successful in 2005. Inactive in 2006.
Western Coalfield			
Hopkins	White City WMA	1998	Successful in 2005. Active in 2006.
" "	Tradewater River	1999	Successful in 2005. Active in 2006.
" "	Lake Pee wee vicinity	2006	Nest built but apparently not used in 2006.
Muhlenberg	Cypress Creek	2003	Successful in 2006.
Central and Eastern Kentucky			
Bath	Cave Run Lake	2004	Successful in 2005. Active in 2006.
Grayson	Rough River Lake	2003	Successful in 2006.
Henry	Kentucky River floodplain, Marshall's Bottom	2005	Successful in 2005. Inactive in 2006.
Larue	Rolling Fork	2001	Successful in 2005. Active in 2006.
Laurel	Laurel River Lake	1991	Finally successful in 2002. Successful in 2005. Active in 2006.
Lawrence	Yatesville Lake	2000	Successful in 2006.
Lewis	Ohio River nr. Garrison	1998	Possibly used to about 2001. Only limited information available on this nest.
Mason	Ohio River bluff nr. South Ripley	2003	Built but apparently not successful in fledging young. Destroyed in 2004. Likely now active on Ohio side of river nearby.
Meade	Ohio River floodplain nr. Lodalé	2003	Successful in 2006.

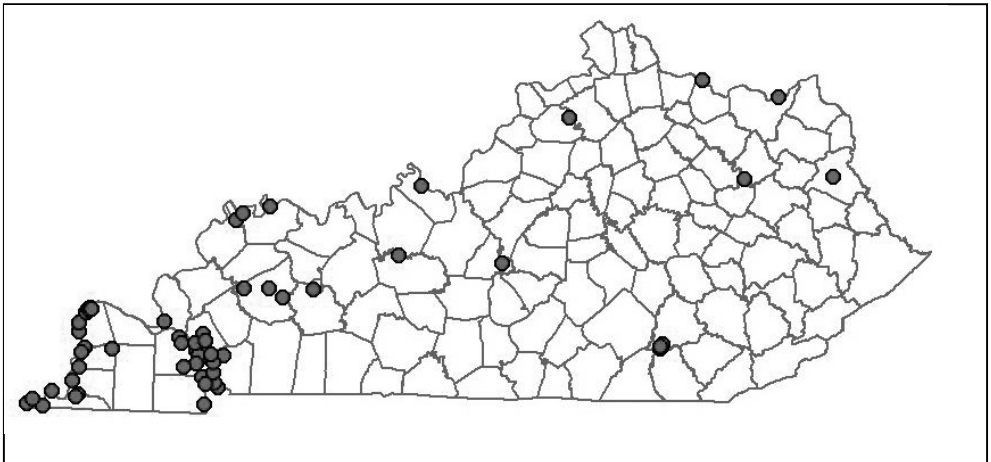


Figure 1. Locations of Bald Eagle Nesting Pairs in Kentucky, 1986-2006.

tional information lacking in the previous ruling (USFWS 2006). Included were delisting goals for productivity and numbers of occupied breeding areas within each recovery region and statements on how these goals have been achieved. Based on these considerations, it seems likely that the Bald Eagle will soon be officially delisted, marking a significant conservation achievement. As a condition of the Endangered Species Act, the species will continue to be monitored for a period of at least five years. It will also remain protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Acknowledgments

We thank the many present and former participants in Bald Eagle surveys and restoration efforts who contributed to the collection of data that has made this summary possible. Dozens of individuals have contributed in one manner or another. Cooperating agencies include the Ky. Dept. of Parks, Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Ky. State Nature Preserves Commission, Tenn. Div. of Parks and Conservation, Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service. We thank Steve Bloemer (U.S. Forest Service, LBL) and Laura Burford (KDFWR) for contributions of unpublished nesting data from Kentucky. John Castrale (Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources), Becky Foust (U.S. Forest Service, LBL), Bob Gillespie (Missouri. Dept. of Conservation), Greg Nivens (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dale Hollow Lake), Mark Shieldcastle (Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources), and Jody Shimp (Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources) provided additional data on nests adjacent to Kentucky.

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- Ky. State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (Palmer-Ball) and Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (Vorisek and Smith).

SPRING SEASON 2006

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

The spring 2006 season was one of highly variable weather conditions. While the northern portion of Kentucky experienced relatively normal rainfall, much of southern Kentucky was quite dry, especially during April. Overall, temperatures were warmer-than-normal, with an abnormally warm month of April bringing an early onset to spring. In contrast, much of the middle of May was cooler and wetter than normal. The early season warmth resulted in early emergence of leaves, making for difficult passerine viewing conditions. The cool, wet period in mid-May was severe enough to cause some mortality and nesting failure in several species. Most remarkable was an apparently fairly widespread die-off of Purple Martins across central and western portions of the state. In part due to the lack of early-season floodwaters to create habitat, shorebird migration was relatively unspec-

tacular in most areas. Rarity highlights included a pair of Cinnamon Teal, Red-necked and Western grebes, Swainson's Hawk, a large flock of Marbled Godwits, Clay-colored Sparrow, Painted Bunting, and continuing Varied Thrush, Spotted Towhee and Harris's Sparrow.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted as records for the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Observers are cautioned that records of out-of-season birds and all rarities must be accompanied with good details or documentation for acceptance. Documentation must be submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ph.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “vt.” next to an observer's initials indicates that the observation was documented on videotape; “*” next to an observer's initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Ballard = Ballard WMA, Ballard; Barkley Dam = Barkley Dam, *Lyon/Livingston*; Barren = Barren River Lake, *Allen/Barren*; Berea Forest = Berea College Forest, *Madison*; Blood River = Blood River embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Calloway*; Camp #9 = Peabody Camp #9 coal preparation plant, *Union*; Camp #11 = former Camp #11 mine, *Union*; Caperton = Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*; Chaney Lake = Chaney Lake, *Warren*; Clifty Pond = Clifty Pond, near Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*; Cooley's Pond = Cooley's Pond, *Wayne*; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Dry Creek = Dry Creek Unit, Barren River Lake WMA, *Barren*; East Bend = East Bend Power Plant, *Boone*; Ellis Park = Ellis Park Race Track, *Henderson*; Falls of the Ohio = Falls of the Ohio, *Jefferson*; Garvin Brown = Garvin Brown Nature Preserve, ne. *Jefferson*; Grandview, IN = Ohio River upstream from Grandview, Indiana, *Hancock*; Gibraltar = Peabody Gibraltar Mine, *Muhlenberg*; Grassy Pond = Grassy Pond Unit, Sloughs WMA, w. *Henderson*; Gunpowder Creek = Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*; Horseshoe Road = slough next to Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Kentucky Lake, *Marshall*; KY 268 = slough along KY 268, w. *Henderson*; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, *Livingston/Marshall*; Ky Dam Village = Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, *Marshall*; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley at Kuttawa, *Lyon*; Lake No. 9 = Lake No. 9, *Fulton*; Lake Peewee = Lake Peewee, *Hopkins*; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, *Lyon/Trigg*; Long Point = Long Point Unit, Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, *Fulton*; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, *Edmonson*; Meng's Pond = Meng's Pond, *Warren*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; Mt. Vernon = slough along Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road near Mt. Vernon, Indiana, *Union*; Mt. Zion = Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*; Newport = Newport, *Campbell*; Paradise = Paradise Power Plant impoundments, *Muhlenberg*; Rock Bridge = Rock Bridge Trail, DBNF, *Wolfe*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Tom Sawyer = E.P. “Tom” Sawyer State Park, *Jefferson*; Shaker Mill = Shaker Mill, *Warren*; Sinclair = Sinclair Unit Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; Smithland Dam = Smithland Dam on the Ohio River, *Livingston*; South Shore = South Shore WMA, *Greenup*; Surrey Hills Farm = Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*; Waitsboro = Waitsboro Recreation Area on Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; Watson Point = Watson Point, Kentucky Bend, *Fulton*; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SRP = State Resort Park; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

Greater White-fronted Goose – latest reports were for 100 at Horseshoe Road 1 March (CC) with 80+ still there 11 March (BP, CC); and 3 at Scales Farm Pond, *Logan*, 15 March (MB).

Ross's Goose x Snow Goose – an imm. exhibiting intermediate characters between these two species was present at Griffin Park, *Warren*, 21 March–20 April (ph. DR; see p. 65).



Ross's Goose x Snow Goose, Warren
10 April 2006
David Roemer

Ross's Goose – there were three reports: 1 at Blood River 4 March (HC); an ad. in n.-cen. *Ballard* 25 March (BP); and 1 at Crocker Farm Pond, *Logan*, 29 March (MB).

Mute Swan – the only report of presumed non-feral birds was for 1-2 at Long Run Park, *Jefferson*, 2-26 May (BW).

Tundra Swan – the wintering flock at Sauerheber lingered into early March with 34 there 1 March (CC); ca. 30 there 10 March (MMr); and 7 last reported there 11 March (BP, CC).

Gadwall – latest reports were for a pair on a farm pond near Union, *Boone*, 13 May (MD, EC fide LeM); a m. at Paradise 19 May (BP); and a m. at Ky Dam 25 May (DR).

American Wigeon – latest report was for a m. on Ky Lake above the dam 6 May (HC et al.).

Blue-winged Teal – peak count was for 175-200 at Sauerheber 13 April (DR); a few birds lingered into the last week of May, but no evidence of breeding was detected.

Cinnamon Teal – a pair was present at Sauerheber 8 April (ph.DR, KOS; see p. 76) through 10 April (DA). KBRC review required.

Northern Shoveler – peak count was for ca. 250 at Sauerheber 11 March (BP, CC); other reports of interest included 70 above Ky Dam 28 April (DR); 8 at Camp #9 on 2 May (BP); and a pair at the Falls of the

Ohio 7 May (BP et al.); last observed was a pair at Sauerheber 19 May (DR).

Northern Pintail – peak count was for ca. 1000 at Horseshoe Road 1 March (CC); an injured m. was present on Ky Lake above the dam from late April (HC, KOS) to at least 25 May (DR).

Green-winged Teal x Blue-winged Teal – a m. teal possessing characters of both Green-winged and Blue-winged was in the company of ca. 6 Blue-wings at Sauerheber 18 May (BP).

Green-winged Teal – peak count was for ca. one-third of 500 dabblers at Sauerheber 31 March (BP); with 120+ still there 8 April (DR, KOS).

Redhead – peak season counts were for 40+ on Clifty Pond, 36 at Cooley's Pond, and 30+ at Thurston's Pond, *Wayne*, all 4 March (RDn); 20 upstream from Grandview, IN, 6 March (DA); 42 at Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 10 March (BW); and 40 at Lexington 18 March (SM). Latest reports were for a pair at Ballard 23 April (SR) and a m. on Ky Lake above the dam 30 April (BP, KOS).

Ring-necked Duck – latest reports were for a m. at Kuttawa to 4 May (BP); a m. at Petersburg, *Boone*, 13 May (LeM); and a f. at Minor Clark 20 May (GR).

Greater Scaup – there were several reports of interest including at least 2 upstream from Grandview, IN (DA), and 6 at Waitsboro (RDn), both 6 March; a f. at Lake Peewee 12 March (BP); and 1 at Long Point 5 May (ph.HC et al.).

Lesser Scaup – latest reports were for 2 on Ky Lake above the dam 11 May (DR) with 1 still there 25 May (DR); and ca. 30 on Lake Barkley above the dam 4 May (BP) with small numbers lingering there and at Kuttawa through May (m. ob.).

Black Scoter – there were two reports of single f./imms. on the Ohio River: 1 at Louisville 5 March (ph.BY, MY) and 1 upstream from Grandview, IN, 6 March (DA).

Bufflehead – peak counts were for 30+ at Minor Clark 18 March (LH) and ca. 40 on

the Ohio River at Louisville 31 March (T&CB).

Hooded Merganser – a f. with 11 yg. at Homestead Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 4 May (RDn); a f. with 9 yg. at Scott Creek wetlands, DBNF, *Rowan*, 9 May (BS, SS, et al.); and a f. with 7 yg. at Split Rock Conservation Park, *Boone* 13 May (LeM, JCM, KCa) represented first county breeding records. Other reports of interest included two family groups at Horseshoe Road 27 May (BP, RDv); 3 juvs. at Mt. Vernon 19 May (DR) that likely hatched locally; and a f. at South Shore 20 May (SF, EKBC).

Common Merganser – latest report was for 5 f. on Lake Barkley above the dam 25 March (BP).

Red-breasted Merganser – peak counts were for 35 at Waitsboro (RDn) and 32 on Lake Barkley above the dam (BY, MY), both 25 March; latest reports were for a f. above Ky Dam 4 May (BP) and a f. on the Ohio River at Newport 20 May (FR).

Ruddy Duck – peak counts were for 340 at Lake Peewee 12 March (BP) with a new state high count of 546 there 26 March (AM); latest report was for 3 at Camp #11 on 2 May (BP).

Common Loon – peak count was for 11 at Barren 21 March (MB); 5 still on Ky Lake above the dam 30 April (BP, KOS) with 3 there 13 May (ME); other relatively late birds were 2 at Waitsboro 12 May (RDn); 2 at Petersburg, *Boone*, 13 May (LeM) and 2 at Barren 14 May (DR).

Pied-billed Grebe – latest reports were for 2 at Lake No. 9 on 26 May (BP) and several, likely breeding, at Camp #11 through May (BP).

Red-necked Grebe – there were two reports: 2 at Owensboro, *Daviess*, 26 March with 1 remaining 29 March (ph.SA); and 1 on Ky Lake above the dam 29 April (ph.HC, KOS) to 7 May (JBr, BY, MY). KBRC review required.

Western Grebe – 1 was on Ky Lake above the dam 6 May (*JBr). KBRC review required.



Red-necked Grebe, *Marshall*
29 April 2006
Hap Chambers

American White Pelican – peak season counts were for 600+ on Lake Barkley at Canton, *Trigg*, 3 March (KB); 200+ on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 5 March (HC); and 200+ at Jonathan Creek 16 March (HC). The only report away from w. Kentucky was for 1 at Barren 19 April (MVe; *file* DR). Latest reports were for 34 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 8 May (HC et al.) and 1—perhaps the same injured bird that has been present in past years—on Lake Barkley above the dam 17 May (DR).

Double-crested Cormorant – northbound migrants did not seem to be as numerous this season; lingering birds included 2 at Van Buren boat ramp, Taylorsville Lake, *Anderson*, 24 May (BW), and ca. 15 at Kuttawa (BP) and 2 at Dry Creek (DR, RDv), both 26 May. The small nesting colony on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, expanded onto a nearby island this year (HC).

American Bittern – 5 at Hardy Slough, Sauerheber, 8 April (DR, KOS) represented a new state high count.

Least Bittern – there were three reports: 3 heard at Camp #11 on 2 May (BP); 1 at Sinclair 11 May (BP); and 1 at Pond Creek Marsh 19 May (DR).

Great Egret – earliest report was from w. *Fulton* 19 March (HC, JHo); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 31 March (T&CB) was relatively early for the local area; small num-

bers were reported from scattered locations throughout w. and c. Kentucky. Reports of interest included up to 17 at Paradise/Sinclair 26 April (DR) and 8 at East Bend 13 May (LeM et al.).

Snowy Egret – there were a few scattered reports away from w. Kentucky including 1 at Chaney Lake 13 April (DR); 1 along KY 90, e. Wayne, 14 April (RDn); 1 at Paradise 27 May (RDn, SD); and 1 at Mt. Vernon 28 May (CC).

Little Blue Heron – earliest reports included single ads. in Henderson and at Chaney, both 13 April (DR) and an ad. at Paradise 17 April (DR).

Cattle Egret – the only report from away from w. Kentucky was for 2 along KY 106, Butler, 21 April (RDn).

Black-crowned Night-Heron – numbers of birds at Louisville wintering sites began to increase noticeably 18 March (BW); the earliest report away from Louisville was for an ad. at Barkley Dam 25 March (BP).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron – the only reports were for 4 along the Tradewater River just e. of Dawson Springs, Hopkins, 13 April (ER) and 1 at Caperton 23 April (BY, MY).

Osprey – earliest report was for 2 on Lake Barkley at the US 68/KY 80 bridge, Trigg, 7 March (HC), representing a new early arrival date. Late reports of birds in areas away from known breeding locations included 1 hunting over Lake No. 9 on 26 May (BP) and 1 along KY 910, Casey, 28 May (RDn).

Mississippi Kite – the only extralimital report was for 1 over Sauerheber 19 May (DR).

Bald Eagle – the number of reports of birds away from known breeding areas continues to increase; there were scattered reports of sub-ads. throughout the season (m. ob.).

Northern Harrier – reports of interest included a m. performing courtship flight over a reclaimed mine in Bell in April (JS; *fide* MVu) and a migrant over Warren 8 May (DR).

Sharp-shinned Hawk – a banded juv. f. was picked up on US 119, Bell, 3 March (BP).

Swainson's Hawk – a light morph ad. over Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, 8 April (ph.DR et al.) will become a first confirmed record for the state. KBRC review required.

Red-tailed Hawk – there were several reports of w. races/morphs: dark morph ad. *B. j. calurus* (BP); dark morph ad. *B. j. harlani* (ph.BP), and intermediate morph ad. *B. j. harlani* (ph.BP), all along Clear Creek, Hopkins, 12 March; ad. light morph *B. j. calurus* in Warren 13 March (DR); ad. dark morph *B. j. calurus* in Graves and ad. light morph *B. j. calurus* ne. of Long Point, both 14 March (DR); ad. light morph *B. j. calurus* at Sinclair 15 March (DR); ad. light morph *B. j. calurus* in Warren 29 March (DR); and an ad. dark morph *B. j. calurus* over Middletown, Jefferson, 30 March (MMn).

Golden Eagle – a juv. was found electrocuted near Owenton, Owen, in early April (BSn; *fide* BSm).

Merlin – there were four reports: a f. at Surrey Hills Farm 1 March (BP, CB); 1 at the WKU Farm, Warren, 4 April (DR); 1 at Bowling Green, Warren, 30 April (DR); and a likely m. at Surrey Hills Farm 7 May (BP et al.).

Peregrine Falcon – other than locally nesting birds, the only reports were for 1 along KY 504, Elliott, 10 April (EM); 1 at Long Point 17 April (GL); and 1 at Ky Dam 11 May (DR). Work by KDFWR resulted in the discovery of 4 new pairs along the Ohio River, adding to the 4 pairs already known (BV, AS, SV; details will be provided in the Summer Season report).

King Rail – the only report was for 1 heard at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS).

Virginia Rail – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS); 2 (likely pair) heard at Sinclair and 12 (likely 6 pairs) present at Gibraltar 3 May (BP); 1 still at Sinclair 11 May (BP); at least 2 still at Gibraltar with

a complete but empty nest located 19 May (ph.BP).

Sora – peak counts were for 15+ at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS) and 20+ seen/heard at Camp #11 on 2 May (BP).

Common Moorhen – the only reports came from known breeding areas: 2 seen and 5 more heard at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, 22 May (CC); and 4 at Camp #11 on 2 May (BP).

American Coot – latest reports were for 5 at Gibraltar 19 May (BP); 1 at Grassy Pond 22 May (CC); 2 at the swamp n. of Audubon State Park, *Henderson*, 27 May (BP, RDv); 1 along the Licking River, *Bourbon/Harrison*, 27 May (SM, RB); and several at Camp #11 through the end of the month (BP).

Sandhill Crane – the main push of north-bound birds extended through the first week of March (m. ob.); latest reports were for 5 over Lincoln Boyhood Home, *Larue*, 15 April (SB, BBC) and 1 in se. *Daviess* 27 April (ph.BLo).

Black-bellied Plover – earliest report was for 1 at Willow Pond, *Fulton*, 22 April (RDn, JD); also reported were 1 at Paradise 30 April/16 May (DR); 5 at Horseshoe Road 18 May (BP); 3 at Mt. Vernon 19 May (DR) with 2 still there 20 May (CC); 2 at Grassy Pond 22 May (CC); and 2 at a slough along West Franklin Road, *Henderson*, 28 May (CC).

American Golden-Plover – scarcely noted, all reports being included: 3 at Sauerheber 16 March (CC); 1 at Blood River 28 March (HC); and 9 at McElroy 13 April (DR) with singles there 17/19 April (DR).

Semipalmated Plover – earliest reports were for 4 at Paradise 17 April (DR) and 1 at Cooley's Pond 19 April (RDn); peak counts included 60+ at KY 268 on 18 May (BP); and 35 along KY 268 and 25+ at Horseshoe Rd, both 27 May (BP, RDv); latest report was for 2 at Meng's Pond 31 May (DR).

Greater Yellowlegs – earliest reports were for 6 at Sauerheber 11 March (BP) and 1 at Minor Clark 12 March (DP); peak

counts were for ca. 50 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS); 51 at Chaney Lake 19 April (DR); and 170+ in w. *Fulton* 22 April (RDn, JD). Latest reports were for 3 at Paradise (RDn) and 1 at Horseshoe Road (BP, RDv), both 27 May.

Lesser Yellowlegs – peak counts were for ca. 200 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS); 72 at Chaney Lake 20 April (DR); and 80+ in w. *Fulton* 22 April (RDn, JD). Latest report was for 2 at Horseshoe Road 27 May (BP, RDv).

Solitary Sandpiper – peak counts of 79 and 113 at Chaney Lake 17 and 19 April, respectively (DR), represented new state high counts.

Willet – there were fewer reports this spring, all being included: 18 at Ky Dam Village beach 29 April (HC, KOS); 9 at Paradise 4 May (RDn); and 1 at Sauerheber 13 May (MS).

Spotted Sandpiper – 5 were still at Horseshoe Road—where they nested in 2005—27 May (BP, RDv); other late reports included 1 at Lake No. 9 on 26 May (BP) and 1 along the Licking River, *Bourbon/Harrison*, 27 May (SM, RB).

Marbled Godwit – establishing a new state high count was a flock of 20 at Paradise 21 April (ph.RDn; see next page). KBRC review required.

Ruddy Turnstone – the only reports were for 1 at Paradise 16 May (DR); 3 at Mt. Vernon 19 May (DR); and 1 still at the latter location 20 May (CC).

Semipalmated Sandpiper – the species arrived and peaked a bit later than normal (perhaps a result of cool, rainy mid-May weather). Earliest reports were for 1 at Long Creek, LBL, *Trigg*, 1 May (BLi) and 2 at Paradise 2 May (DR); peak counts were for 39 at Watson Point 26 May (BP); 25 at Camp #9 on 27 May (BP); 30 at Horseshoe Road and 20 at KY 268, both 27 May (BP, RDv); and ca. 500 at Paradise 29 May (DR, TD).

Western Sandpiper – there were three reports for this rare spring shorebird: 2 at Blood River 9 April (HC), 5 at Sauerheber



Marbled Godwits (most of 20), *Muhlenberg*
21 April 2006
Roseanna Denton

28 April (*CC), and 2 (perhaps some of the same individuals) at Sauerheber 2 May (ph.BP).

Least Sandpiper – wintering or early returning birds were observed at Blood River 4 March (HC) and South Shore 11 March (SF, EKBC); the peak of migration occurred about a week later than normal, and numbers lingered well into May; peak counts were for 50 at Sauerheber 2 May (BP); 220 at Paradise 11 May (BP); 70 at Meng's Pond 16 May (DR); 55 at Ellis Park and 50 at Horseshoe Road, both 18 May (BP); and 48 at Mt. Vernon 19 May (DR). Latest reports were for 2 at Meng's Pond 23 May (DR) and 1 at Horseshoe Road 27 May (BP, RDv).

White-rumped Sandpiper – earliest reports were for singles at Paradise 6 May (BY, MY) and Meng's Pond 9-11 May (DR); peak counts were for at least 14 at Minor Clark 25 May (RDn); 32 at Horseshoe Road 27 May (BP, RDv); and 15 at Paradise 29 May (DR, TD).

Pectoral Sandpiper – earliest report was for 1 at Blood River 5 March (HC); peak count was for 300 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS); latest reports were for 2 at Meng's Pond 25 May (DR) and 1 there 28 May (DR).

Dunlin – earliest reports were for 3 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS) and 1 at Long Point 17 April (GL); 1-11 at scattered locales during first two weeks of May (m. ob.); peak counts were for 25 at Sauer-

heber 22 April (CC) and 234 at KY 268 on 19 May (DR). Latest report was for the flock at KY 268 on 19 May (DR).

Stilt Sandpiper – the only reports were for 1 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS) and 1 at Horseshoe Road 18 May (BP).

Short-billed Dowitcher – earliest reports were for 10 at Meng's Pond (DR) and 11 at Minor Clark (SS, BS, et al.), both 11 May; peak count was for 22 at Ellis Park 18 May (BP); also reported were 1 at East Bend 13 May (LeM); 5 at KY 268 14 May with 1 there through 20 May (CC); and 8 at Mt. Vernon 20 May (CC). The following reports of dowitcher sp. were likely all Short-billed: 1 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS); 8 there 13 May (MS); and 4 at Paradise 19 May (BP).

Long-billed Dowitcher – only reports were for 10 at Sauerheber 28 April (CC) with at least 2 there 2 May (BP) and 7 May (BY, MY).

Wilson's Snipe – peak counts were for 132 e. of Open Pond, *Fulton*, with 100+ at Long Point, both 26 March (BY, MY) and 50-75 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS).

Wilson's Phalarope – there were four reports, all being included: a f. at Sauerheber 22 April (CC); a f. at Minor Clark 11 May (GS, SS, BS, et al.); a m. at KY 268 on 22 May (CC); and 2 (m. and f.) at Camp #9 on 27 May (BP).

Laughing Gull – there were several reports, all being included: an ad. at Ky Dam Vil-

lage marina 30 April (BP, KOS); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 1 May (BY, MY); 5 at Ky Dam Village marina 11-12 May (BP, BY, MY); 3 at the Falls of the Ohio 24 May (ph.AG, BE); and 1 at Ky Dam 25 May (DR).

Franklin's Gull – the only reports were from the Ky Dam Village marina, where up to 4 were present 11 May (BY, MY, BP), with 5 there 12 May (BP), and 2 there 15 May (BLi).

Bonaparte's Gull – peak season count was for 400+ at Jonathan Creek 16 March (HC); 3 lingered at Ky Dam Village to 4 May (BP) with 1 first-year bird still there 11 May (BY, MY, et al.); the only other tardy bird was an ad. at the Falls of the Ohio 2 May (BP).

Ring-billed Gull – nearly 100 were still in the vicinity of Ky Dam 11 May (DR) with 2 on the Ohio River at Covington, *Campbell*, 20 May (FR) and 16 still at Ky Dam Village marina 26 May (BP). Another report of interest was for 300 on the Ohio River at Dayton, *Campbell*, 16 March (FR).

Herring Gull – 10 sub-ads. were still in the vicinity of Ky Dam 11 May (DR et al.) with 2 still there 12 May (BP, BY, MY); the only other late bird was an ad. at the Falls of the Ohio 7 May (BP et al.).

Thayer's Gull – only report of a lingering bird was for a first-year bird at Barkley Dam 15 March (DR).

Lesser Black-backed Gull – only report of a lingering bird was for an ad. on Ky Lake above the dam 25 March (BP).

Caspian Tern – establishing a new early arrival date were 2 at Kuttawa 25 March (BY, MY, BP); also early was 1 at Jonathan Creek 27 March (HC); latest report was for a first-year bird at Ky Dam Village marina 26 May (BP).

Common Tern – earliest report was for 2 at Ky Dam Village marina 30 April (BP, KOS); an exceptional count of at least 280 in the vicinity of Ky Dam—most loafing at the Ky Dam Village marina—11 May (BY, MY, BP) represented a new state high count, with many still there 15 May

(BLi); latest report was for 8 below Smithland Dam 25 May (DR). Also reported were 7 at Paradise 11 May (BP).



Some of ca. 280 Common Terns
Marshall, 30 April 2006
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Forster's Tern – likely wintering birds were observed at Blood River 4 March (HC) and Jonathan Creek 10 March (BLi); peak counts were for 60+ on Ky Lake above the dam 29 April (HC, KOS) with 400+ (a new state high count) there 11 May (DR, BY, MY) with many dozens still there 15 May (BLi).

Black Tern – earliest report was for 1 at Green Turtle Bay 30 April (DR); 1-4 were in the vicinity of Ky Dam 12-15 May (m. ob.) with a peak count of 12 in the vicinity of Ky Dam 11 May (DR). Also reported were an unspecified number at Minor Clark 20 May (GR) and 6 below Smithland Dam 25 May (DR).

Eurasian Collared-Dove – only report of a bird in a new area was 1 on the ECU campus at Richmond, *Madison*, 28 April (TE).

Black-billed Cuckoo – there were an above-average number of reports this spring, all being included: 1 along the Cathy Crockett Trail, DBNF, *McCreary*, 28 April (RDn); 1 at Burlington, *Boone*, 1/10 May (LeM); 1 at Berea Forest 1 May (TH); 1 at A.J. Jolly Park, *Campbell*, 13 May (RL); 1 heard at Surrey Hills Farm 14 May (BP); 1 heard along Red River near the Stillwater Creek confluence, *Wolfe*, 17 May (BP); 1 nr. Sinclair 19 May (BP); 1 at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*,

14/20 May with 2 there 17 May (LeM); 1 at Blood River 23 May (HC, ME); 2 heard at Watson Point 26 May (BP); and 1 at Middle Creek Park, *Boone*, 27 May (LeM).

Yellow-billed Cuckoo – earliest report was for 1 at Tom Sawyer 20 April (JBe, PB).

Barn Owl – the only report was from e. *Calloway* in early May (HC).

Eastern Screech-Owl – extraordinarily early was a flightless hatchling turned in to Raptor, Inc., 19 March (JHa). The young bird originated from Newport and likely hatched around 1 March (*fide* JHa).

Whip-poor-will – earliest report was for 1 near Campton, *Wolfe*, 7 April (KF).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird – earliest reports were for singles at Murray 6 April (ME) and Mt. Zion 10 April (RDn).

Rufous Hummingbird – latest report was for the ad. m. that wintered at Corbin, *Knox*, and lingered to 29 March (J&MP). See *The Kentucky Warbler* 82:49 (2006).

Olive-sided Flycatcher – there were four reports: 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 28 April (JBe, PB, et al.); 1 at Cherokee Park 19 May (MW); 2 at Dry Creek 26 May (DR, RDv); and 1 at Watson Point 26 May (BP).

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher – all reports are included: 1 in *Hart* 13 May (SK et al.); 1 at Mt. Zion 14/20 May (RDn); 3 seen/heard at Surrey Hills Farm 20 May (BP et al.); 1 at Shaker Mill 22 May (DR) with 1 there 26 May (DR, RDv); 1 heard at Rivercliffs SNP, *Franklin*, 23 May (BP, DS); 1 heard at Watson Point 26 May (BP); 1 seen/heard in w. *Henderson* 27 May (BP, RDv); 1 at Ft. Campbell, *Christian*, 30 May (DM); and 1 heard in e. *Lee* 31 May (BP).

Alder Flycatcher – there were several reports, all being included: singles at Sauerheber (DR) and at Sinclair (BP), both 19 May; 3 at Dry Creek 23 May (DR); 1 at Calvert City 25 May (DR); singles in LBL, *Trigg*, and along Pleasant Hill Church Road, *Trigg*, both 26 May (BLi); 2 at Dry Creek 26 May (DR, RDv); 5

seen/heard at Watson Point 26 May (BP); and 1 seen/heard in w. *Henderson* 27 May (BP, RDv).

Willow Flycatcher – earliest report was for 2 at Gibraltar 3 May (BP).

Least Flycatcher – earliest report was for 1 at Mt. Zion 23 April (RDn); latest report was for 1 heard at Watson Point 26 May (BP). A tally of 22 at the crest of Black Mountain, *Harlan*, 14 May eclipsed a previous high count from that location in May 2004 (BY, MY).

Great Crested Flycatcher – earliest report was for 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 9 April (BY, MY).

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher – 1 was seen in nw. *Bourbon* 19 April (*MH, PK); a pair was present and building a nest below Barkley Dam 29 April (HC, KOS) through May, with a bird also present at the previous years' nesting site n. of Grand Rivers, *Livingston*, in the latter half of May (m. ob.).

Loggerhead Shrike – a pair were at a nest at Hogue, *Pulaski*, 8 May (RDn).

White-eyed Vireo – earliest report was for 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 4 April (BLi).

Bell's Vireo – earliest report was for 2 at Sinclair 26 April (DR).

Yellow-throated Vireo – earliest reports were for a few in LBL, *Lyon*, 5 April (JBe, PB, et al.); and 1 at Scuttle Hole Trail, DBNF, *Laurel*, 10 April (RDn, LiM).

Blue-headed Vireo – 8 at Yahoo Falls, Big South Fork, 13 March (RDn) and 3 at Little Lick 15 March (RDn) continued the pattern of earlier and earlier spring reports of this species.

Philadelphia Vireo – extraordinarily early was 1 at Panorama Shores, *Calloway*, 18 April (KCo); next earliest was 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 29 April (BP, AC); peak count was for 4 in LBL, *Lyon*, 12 May (BP, BY, MY); latest report was for 1 seen/heard in w. *Henderson* 27 May (BP, RDv).

Red-eyed Vireo – earliest report was for 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 7 April (BLi).

Fish Crow – earliest reports were for several in the vicinity of Long Point 14 March (DR) and 6 at Ballard 27 March (SR).

Common Raven – only report was for 2 birds (assumed to be a pair) at a nest site at Rebel's Rock, *Letcher*, 3 March (BP, BV).

Purple Martin – after a single late February report, next earliest reports were for singles at Winchester, *Clark* (BLi), and in e. *Calloway* (HC), both 4 March. The cool, rainy period in mid-May resulted in widespread mortality of martins across much of cen. and w. Kentucky (m. ob.; *fide* DW).

Tree Swallow – earliest reports were for 3 at Lake Cumberland, *Wayne*, 4 March (RDn) and 15 at Freeman Lake, *Hardin* (BW); 1 at Stanford, *Lincoln* (JM); and 1 at Russellville, *Logan* (MB), all 10 March; early peak counts were for 750-1000 along Clear Creek, w. *Hopkins*, 12 March (BP) and "thousands" on Lake Peewee during the last week of March (AM).

Bank Swallow – earliest report was for at least 1 at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS).

Cliff Swallow – several at Barkley Dam 14 March (DR) represented a new early arrival date.

Barn Swallow – earliest report was for 1 in *Hart* 18 March (SK).

Red-breasted Nuthatch – nest cavity inspection/excavation was noted by at least 1 pair at Rock Bridge 1/22-23 April (FR, VR); other possible breeders included a male along Swift Camp Creek near the Red River, *Wolfe*, 23 April (FR, VR) and a male calling as if territorial along Red River just below the Stillwater Creek confluence, *Wolfe*, 5 April (BP). Latest reports of non-breeders were for a f. in LBL, *Lyon*, 4 May (BP) and 1 at Berea Forest 7 May (SM, RB).

House Wren – singles at Kendall Recreation Area, *Russell*, 4 March (RDn) and Clifty Pond 16 March (RDn) were likely continuing from winter.

Sedge Wren – 1 heard in a field se. of Oscar, *Ballard*, 24 March (BP) and 1 at

Sinclair 26 March (BY, MY) had likely wintered; also reported were singles at Sauerheber 22 April–14 May (CC); Surrey Hills Farm 7-20 May (BP et al.); and the Berea Forest entrance area 15 May (TH).

Marsh Wren – additional evidence of scattered overwintering was provided by several birds present prior to normal spring arrival: 1 at Lewis County WMA 11 March (SM, EKBC; *fide* SF); 1 along Pond Creek, w. *Hopkins*, 12 March (BP); 1 at Garvin Brown 23 March (KT); 1 heard at Gibraltar 26 March (BY, MY); and 1 singing at Camp #11 on 31 March (BP). Three at Sauerheber 8 April (DR, KOS) were also a bit early but perhaps on the cusp of representing early arrivals. Also reported were 1 at Paradise 21 April (RDn, JD); 2 near Long Point 22 April (RDn, JD); 2 heard at Camp #11 on 2 May (BP); 1 in *Hart* 13 May (*fide* SK); and 1 at Shaker Mill 26 May (DR, RDv).

Golden-crowned Kinglet – latest report was for 1 at Rock Bridge 24 April (FR, VR).

Ruby-crowned Kinglet – latest report was for 1 at Garvin Brown 13 May (BW).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher – earliest report was for 1 at Jonathan Creek 25 March (BY, MY).

Veery – earliest report was for 1 at Mammoth Cave 22 April (JBe, PB, et al.).

Gray-cheeked Thrush – earliest report was for 1 at Berea Forest 1 May (TH).

Swainson's Thrush – earliest report was for 1 at Berea Forest 21 April (TH); latest report was for a singing bird at Frankfort through the end of May (BP).

Hermit Thrush – it is not uncommon to see small birds and occasionally raptors inside large commercial buildings, but a Hermit Thrush was certainly out of place inside the Lowe's store at Highland Heights, *Campbell*, 22 March (FR). Latest reports were for 1 or 2 at Berea Forest 8 May (SM, RB) and a very tardy bird at Gunpowder Creek 20 May (LeM) that represented a new late departure date by a day.

Wood Thrush – earliest report was for 1 at South Williamson, *Pike*, 11 April (JCr).

Varied Thrush – the bird at Indian Hills, Louisville, was last seen 25 March (ph.D&CP).

American Pipit – peak count was for two flocks totaling 150+ in s. *Warren* 21 March (DR); latest reports were for 1 at Floyds Fork Park, *Jefferson*, 9 May (TF) and at least 1 at Horseshoe Road 18 May (BP).

Blue-winged Warbler – earliest report was in LBL, *Trigg*, 7 April (BLi).

Brewster's Warbler – there were two reports: 1 at Fisherville, *Jefferson*, 27 April (JHu, EH) and 1 along Indian Knob Road, *McCreary*, 6 May (ph.RDn).

Golden-winged Warbler – earliest report was in LBL, *Trigg*, 27 April (BLi); also reported were 1 at Ragland, *McCracken*, 2 May (SR); 3 in LBL, *Lyon*, 4 May (BP); 2—likely on territory—along Indian Knob Road, *McCreary*, 6 May (RDn); 2 in w. *Henderson* 7 May (CC); and 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 12 May (BP, BY, MY).

Tennessee Warbler – earliest report was for 1 at Caperton 23 April (BY, MY).

Orange-crowned Warbler – there were several reports, all being included: 1 at Cherokee Park, Louisville, 19 April (MW); 1 at Tom Sawyer 21 April (JBe, PB); 1 at Bellevue, *Campbell*, 24 April (FR); 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 27 April (BLi); 1 near Munfordville, *Hart*, 1 May (JBr); and 1 at Floyd's Fork Park, *Jefferson*, 7 May (EH, BBC).

Nashville Warbler – earliest report was for 1 at Cherokee Park, Louisville, 19 April (MW); the species lingered in numbers through the second week of May with the latest report being 3 still singing at Surrey Hills Farm 18 May (BP).

Northern Parula – earliest report was at Mammoth Cave 3 April (JBe, PB, et al.).

Chestnut-sided Warbler – a likely territorial m. was heard in a heavily logged area in ne. *Wolfe* 17 May (BP); a territorial m. was again present at Sky Bridge, DBNF, *Wolfe*, 22 April (FR, VR).

Magnolia Warbler – earliest report was for 1 at Mt. Zion 28 April (RDn).

Black-throated Blue Warbler – the only reports of migrants were for a f. at Middle Creek Park, *Boone*, 6 May (LeM et al.) and 1 to 2 m. at Berea Forest 7 May (TH, SM, RB).

Yellow-rumped Warbler – latest reports were for a few at Floyds Fork Park, *Jefferson*, 15 May (BW) and 5 at Gunpowder Creek Nature Park, *Boone*, 21 May (LeM).

Blackburnian Warbler – earliest report was in sw. *Jefferson* 13 April (CL).

Yellow-throated Warbler – earliest reports were at Mammoth Cave (JBe, PB, et al.) and Shaker Mill (DR), both 3 April.

Prairie Warbler – earliest reports were in *Warren* 4 April (DR) and in LBL, *Trigg*, 7 April (BLi).

Palm Warbler – likely continuing from winter was 1 at Garvin Brown 17 March (JBe, PB, et al.), 22 March (BW), and 24 March (KT). Latest report was for 1 at Garvin Brown 16 May (BW).

Blackpoll Warbler – earliest report was for 1 at Cherokee Park, Louisville, 19 April (MW).

Cerulean Warbler – earliest report was for 1 at Wolf Knob, DBNF, *Whitley*, 15 April (RDn, SBC).

Black-and-white Warbler – 2 seen/heard at Watson Point 26 May (BP) were not near any known breeding areas and if early post-breeding dispersers, would be moving about two weeks earlier than has been previously thought; similarly, 1 singing in Frankfort—also not near a known breeding location—29 May (BP) had not been heard previously and similarly may have been a dispersing bird.

Prothonotary Warbler – earliest reports were for a few in LBL, *Lyon*, 5 April (JBe, PB, et al.) and 1 at Blood River 7 April (HC).

Worm-eating Warbler – 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 5 April (JBe, PB, et al.) represented a new early arrival date by one day.

Swainson's Warbler – most reports were from traditional areas including a relatively early bird at Rock Bridge, 23 April (FR); also reported were singles at Natural Arch, DBNF, *McCreary*, 9 May (FR); 2 seen/heard along Red River below the Stillwater Creek confluence, *Wolfe*, 17 May (BP); and 1 at Blood River 26 May (ME, HC).

Ovenbird – earliest reports were for 1 at Frankfort 12 April (AS) and 4 along Buck Creek, *Pulaski*, 13 April (RDn).

Northern Waterthrush – earliest reports were for singles at Sauerheber (CC) and in w. *Fulton* (RDn), both 22 April.

Louisiana Waterthrush – earliest report was for 1 in ne. *Calloway* 16 March (HC), which represented a new early arrival date by two days.

Connecticut Warbler – there were only a few reports, all being included: 1 at Joe Creason Park, Louisville, 19 May (MW); 1 banded at Clarks River NWR, *Marshall*, 24 May (HC et al.); and 1 heard at Watson Point 26 May (BP).



Connecticut Warbler, *Marshall*
24 May 2006
Hap Chambers

Mourning Warbler – earliest report was for 1 in LBL, *Lyon*, 4 May (BP); there were a number of scattered reports 15-23 May (m. ob.); latest report was for 2 at Watson Point 26 May (BP).

Common Yellowthroat – earliest report was for 1 at Long Point 9 April (BY, MY) that conceivably wintered.

Hooded Warbler – earliest reports were for singles at Jefferson Memorial Forest, *Jefferson*, 12 April (AS) and along Buck Creek, *Pulaski*, 13 April (RDn).

Wilson's Warbler – earliest reports were for singles at Raven Run Nature Preserve, *Fayette*, 3 May (TH) and LBL, *Lyon*, 4 May (BP); latest report was for 1 at Dry Creek 26 May (DR, RDv).

Yellow-breasted Chat – earliest report was in LBL, *Trigg*, 18 April (BLi).

Spotted Towhee – the wintering m. in ne. *Hart* was last observed 24 April (CF, BB).

American Tree Sparrow – latest reports were for 2 or 3 at Surrey Hills Farm 18 March (BP) and 12 at Dayton, *Campbell*, 23 March (FR).

Clay-colored Sparrow – 1 was reported at Barren River Lake State Park, *Barren*, 10 May (*DR). KBRC review required.

Vesper Sparrow – a moderate push of birds was documented during the normal flight period from mid-March to early April (m. ob.); latest reports were for 1 in *Muhlenberg* 17 April (DR) and a very tardy individual along the edge of a large soybean field se. of Watson Point 26 May (BP).

Savannah Sparrow – latest reports in non-breeding areas were for 1 at Clifty Pond 20 May (RDn) and 2 at Horseshoe Road 27 May (BP, RDv).

Grasshopper Sparrow – at least 10 singing males were of interest in no-till corn and soybean fields at Kentucky Bend, *Fulton*, 26 May (BP).

Henslow's Sparrow – a bird at Surrey Hills Farm 17 March (BP) established a new early arrival date; next earliest report was for 1 at Clifty Pond 11 April (RDn).

Le Conte's Sparrow – the only report was for 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 10/11 April (BP).

Fox Sparrow – latest report was for 1 at Surrey Hills Farm 9 April (BP).

Lincoln's Sparrow – earliest report was for 1 near Long Point 22 April (RDn).

White-throated Sparrow – latest reports were for 1 heard in e. *Lee* 31 May (BP)

and at least 1 at St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, through the end of May (BW).

Harris's Sparrow – the ad. that wintered in se. *Daviess* was last seen 6 May (ph.BLo); another was reported near Owingsville, *Bath*, 5 March (*CV). KBRC review required.

White-crowned Sparrow – latest report was for 1 at Mt. Zion 21 May (RDn).

Dark eyed Junco – latest reports were for 1 at Burlington, *Boone*, 15 April (LeM); and 1 at Open Fork, *Elliott*, 24 April (EM).

Lapland Longspur – latest report was for 3 in the Ohio River bottoms SW of Newburgh Dam, *Henderson*, 31 March (BP).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak – an unprecedented number dropped in to use feeding stations with earliest report of 2 at Murray 17 April (ME) and peak counts in early May (e.g. 28+ at Panorama Shores 3 May (KCo)) with a few birds lingering relatively late including 1 at Mt. Zion to 21 May (RDn) and 1 at Murray 24 May (ME).

Blue Grosbeak – earliest report was for 1 near Dot, *Logan*, 16 April (FL).

Indigo Bunting – earliest report was for a m. at Long Point 9 April (BY, MY).

Painted Bunting – a m. at a feeding station at Burkesville, *Cumberland*, 26 May (vt.GT; see p. 76) will represent a second fully-documented record. KBRC review required.

Bobolink – peak counts included 50+ in the lower Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*, 5 May

(HC, ME); 11 at Clifty Pond 13 May (RDn); and at least 30 near Fish Pond, *Fulton*, 16 May (HH).

Western Meadowlark – the only reports came from Open Pond, *Fulton*, where 1 was present 14 March (DR) and at least 2 were present 26 March (BY, MY).

Rusty Blackbird – establishing a new late departure date was 1 at South Shore 20 May (SF, EKBC).

Brewer's Blackbird – all reports are included: three small groups of 2 to ca. 15 birds that came in to the roost at Camp #11 on 31 March but did not land with the rest of the blackbirds, instead proceeding on southward (BP); a f. at Surrey Hills Farm 11 April (BP); and 7 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 12 April (DR).

Baltimore Oriole – earliest report was for a m. at Surrey Hills Farm 11 April (BP).

Purple Finch – following a winter with above-average numbers, the species was fairly widespread at feeders during its northward movement; peak count was for 80+ in *Hart* 25 March (SK); latest reports were for 1 at Calhoun, *McLean*, 30 April (SA); 1 at Berea Forest 7 May (TH); and 1 at Fisherville, *Jefferson*, 16 May (AL).

Pine Siskin – after a scarce winter showing, there were a few reports of spring migrants, all being included: a few at Open Fork, *Elliott*, 2-24 April with 1 there to 2 May (EM); ca. 10 at Richmond, *Madison*, 21 April (TH); and 1 at Calhoun, *McLean*, 30 April (SA).

Observers: Steve Anderson (SA); David Ayer (DA); Bruce Bardin (BB); Tom & Colleen Becker (T&CB); Jane Bell (JBe); Pat Bell (PB); Mark Bennett (MB); Carol Besse (CB); Karon Broadbent (KB); Sandy Brue (SB); John Brunjes (JBr); Rhonda Bryant (RB); Joe Caminiti (JCM); Kathy Caminiti (KCa); Joan Carr (JCr); Elaine Carroll (EC); Hap Chambers (HC); Kathy Cohen (KCo); Amy Covert (AC); Charlie Crawford (CC); Julie Denton (JD); Roseanna Denton (RDn); Steve Denton (SD); Melissa Desgardin (MD); Robert Dever (RDv); Tom Durbin (TD); Melissa Easley (ME); Bett Etanohen (BE); Troy Evans (TE); Kim Feeman (KF); Scott Freidhof (SF); Carol Friedman (CF); Teresa Fultz (TF); Alan Goldstein (AG); Jeff Hays (JHa); Lana Hays (LH); Martina Hines (MH); Tim Houghton (TH); Heather Housman (HH); Jenny Howard (JHo); Eddie Huber (EH); Jennifer Huber (JHu); Steve Kistler (SK); Philipp Krumm (PK); Aurilla Lesley (AL); Celia Law-ence (CL); Bill Lisowsky (BLi); Bobby Lloyd (BLo); Glen Lovelace (GL); Ron Lusby (RL); Frank Lyne (FL); Scott Marsh (SM); Linda McClendon (LiM); Lee McNeely (LeM); Jack Metcalfe (JM); Mark Monroe (MMn); Ann Morgan (AM); Evelyn Morgan (EM); Mike

Morton (MMr); Daniel Moss (DM); David & Clara Ann Pallares (D&CP); Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP); David Patick (DP); June Ann & Michael Perkins (J&MP); Ed Ray (ER); Scott Record (SR); Frank Renfrow (FR); Veronica Renfrow (VR); Gerald Robe (GR); David Roemer (DR); David Skinner (DS); Adam Smith (AS); Brian Smith (BSm); Bob Snow (BSn); Gary Spran-del (GS), Barbara Stedman (BS); Stephen Stedman (SS); Jacob Stewart (JS); Matt Stickel (MS); Gary Thompson (GT); Kevin Thompson (KT); Christopher Verch (CV); Mike Vessels (MVe); Budd Veverka (BV); Shawchyi Vorisek (SV); Mark Vukovich (MVu); Major Waltman (MW); Danny Watson (DW); Barabara Woerner (BW); Ben Yandell (BY); Mary Yandell (MY); Beckham Bird Club (BBC); Eastern Kentucky Bird Club (EKBC); Ken-tucky Ornithological Society (KOS); multiple observers (m. ob.); Somerset Bird Club (SBC).



Above: Pair of Cinnamon Teal, Henderson County, 8 April 2006. Photo by David Roemer (see p. 65). **Below:** Male Painted Bunting, Burkesville, Cumberland County, 26 May 2006 (see p. 75). Video clip from video by Gary Thompson.

